

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-13 /088 W

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P 150900Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6377

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1842

NOFORN

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET BLOC CONDOLENCE MESSAGES

REF: PEKING 1829 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO INDIAN EMBOFF, SEVERAL SOVIET EMBASSY COLLEAGUES

REACTED -- UNCHARACTERISTICALLY -- WITH PERPLEXITY AND SOME IR-

RITATION

TO DECISION BY MOSCOW TO SEND CONDOLENCE MESSAGE SIGNED BY CENTRAL

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COMMITTEE (REFTEL). REFLECTING A PERSONAL HOPE (AND, THE INDIAN

EMBOFF SUGGESTS, A MORE GENERAL SOVIET EMBASSY ORIENTATION) THAT SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS MIGHT IMPROVE SOMEWHAT FOLLOWING MAO'S DEATH, ONE SOVIET OFFICER HERE ASKED RHETORICALLY "WHAT GOOD COULD THAT MESSAGE DO SO SOON? . . THE CHINESE HAD TO REJECT IT." HAD THE MESSAGE BEEN ACCEPTED AND PUBLISHED AGAINST ALL ODDS, THE SOVIET ADDED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN AS THE ADVENT OF AN ENTIRELY NEW CHINESE POLICY.

2. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH THE INDIAN EMBOFF, SPEAKING FROM HIS "PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING AND STRONG PERSONAL CONVICTIONS," SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIET MESSAGE WAS MOTIVATED EXCLUSIVELY BY DOMESTIC SOVIET FACTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS. ONE STRONGLY ANTI-RAPPROCHMENT KREMLIN FACTION, HE CONTENTS, WISHED TO PREEMPT AND BLOCK AN OPPOSING GROUP'S INEVITABLE CONCILIATORY GESTURE TOWARD THE POST-MAO LEADERSHIP. HENCE, COGNIZANT THAT A CHINESE LEADERSHIP DETERMINED TO EXUDE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY WOULD INDEED BE COMPELLED TO REJECT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE, THE ANTI-RAPPROCHEMENT FACTION COULD DELIVER SMUG "I-TOLD-YOU-SO'S" AND INVEIGH AGAINST CHINESE OBSTINACY. ALL OF THIS, THE INDIAN EMBOFF FURTHER HYPOTHESIZES, REFLECTS THE "ANTI-PRC" FACTION'S CONCERN THAT BETTER RELATIONS WITH CHINA WOULD ULTIMATELY ERODE SOVIET CONTROL IN EASTERN EUROPE, SPAWNING "FOUR OR FIVE NEW ROMANIAS."

3. EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES IN PEKING ARE SPREADING THE WORD INFORMALLY THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WAS BY NO MEANS THE ARCHITECT OF THE CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TRIAL BALLOON. THEY HINT THAT SUCH A DECISION WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE SOVIET PARTY PRESIDUM.

4. FOR THE RECORD, THE CHINESE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON SEPTEMBER 14 TOLD FOREIGN PRESS "WE HAVE NO PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS WITH THEM AND HAVE REJECTED THE MESSAGES." ASKED IF THE MESSAGES HAD THEREFORE BEEN RETURNED, THE SPOKESMAN REPLIED "YOU CAN SAY THAT." A CHECK AROUND TOWN INDICATES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN.  
GATES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONDOLENCE MESSAGES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PEKING01842  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760347-1053  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Reference:** 76 PEKING 1829  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET BLOC CONDOLENCE MESSAGES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CH, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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